

Dr. W. S. W. Ruschenberger, *Dione lupinaria*, San Blas.

Prof. D. S. Sheldon. *Physa gyrina*, young, Davenport, Iowa.

Hon. F. E. Spinner. Seven lots of marine shells (fifty-six species) from the mouth of St. John's River. Fla.

U. S. Fish Commission. Fifty-four species of marine Mollusca from the New England coast.

H. A. Ward (purchased). Glass models of six species of Cephalopods.

J. F. Whiteaves. Eight species of fluviatile and marine shells, from Queen Charlotte's Isl. and Gulf of St. Lawrence.

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### REPORT OF THE BOTANICAL SECTION.

The Vice-Director takes much pleasure in reporting to the Academy the continued prosperity of the botanical department, which, in fact, is quite equal to all that can be expected of it, until, by the good fortune of an endowment, funds can be supplied regularly to extend its work. Meetings have been held every month throughout the year except July and August, at each of which valuable communications have been made by various members. Some of the more important of these have been communicated to the general meetings of the Academy, and have found a place in its published proceedings.

The Section now consists of thirty-one members, one having been added during the year.

The Conservator's report to the Section of the condition of the Herbarium has been adopted by the Section as its report to the Academy, and is as follows:—

The accessions to the Academy's Herbarium during the past year have been large and valuable, and the mounting and distribution of the plants received have made large demands upon the time of the Conservator and of the members of the Section who have kindly aided him.

Among the valuable contributions received were the collections of the late Dr. Charles Pickering, made in the years 1844-5, during a journey to Malta, Egypt, Arabia and India, and presented to the Academy by his widow, Mrs. Sarah S. Pickering. The number of species is estimated at about 1500, and, as none of them were named, the labor of distributing them in their proper natural

order (which has been performed by Messrs. Meehan and Burk), has been slow, but is now completed.

From Dr. Gray, of Cambridge, important contributions have been received. Dr. Garber has presented a collection of 100 species collected by himself recently in Porto Rico, while some 250 species of Mexican plants, collected by Drs. Parry and Palmer, have been added.

In the department of the Lower Cryptogams the additions have been of a nearly complete series of the Mosses and Hepaticæ of N. America, collected and named by the late lamented Austin, and presented by the liberality of members of the Section, and of 200 species of N. American Fungi, collected, determined and prepared by J. B. Ellis, and presented by Mr. Martindale.

The total number of species contributed during the year is estimated at 3100, a very large proportion of them being new to the Herbarium.

Some progress has been made in the mounting of the North American Herbarium, the orders from Polemoniaceæ to Scrophulariaceæ inclusive having been completed. Mr. Scribner has continued his work upon the determination and the mounting of the Grasses, though interrupted by long and serious illness. Those familiar with Herbarium work can appreciate the amount of labor yet required to sift the material now upon our shelves, to determine the doubtful species and to mount the whole. Volunteer labor is hardly adequate to take care of the new accessions, and, until some endowment shall secure to the Academy the constant work of a competent botanist, the completion of the task must remain for the future.

Much inconvenience has been heretofore experienced from the want of a proper place to receive and display such seed-vessels and vegetable products as were too large to place in the herbarium sheets. Such objects have necessarily been placed in the gallery of the Museum, too distant from the botanical working-room to be readily consulted. The liberality of a member of the Academy, whose aid has often supplemented its needs and sustained the hands of its workers, has removed this difficulty, and we have now in the botanical room a most convenient and capacious working table, containing sixty-four large drawers for the reception of seed-vessels, pine-cones, wood-sections, etc.

The Conservator must acknowledge, as heretofore, the efficient

aid received from Mr. Chas. F. Parker in the work of poisoning and arranging the collections received during the year and for other material assistance.

JOHN H. REDFIELD,  
Conservator.

December 13th, 1880.

The officers elected for the forthcoming year are :

*Director*.—Dr. W. S. W. Ruschenberger.

*Vice-Director*.—Thomas Meehan.

*Recorder*.—F. L. Scribner.

*Cor. Secretary*.—Isaac C. Martindale.

*Conservator*.—John H. Redfield.

*Treasurer*.—J. O. Schimmel.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS MEEHAN,  
*Vice-Director*.

*Donations to Herbarium and Museum*.—Mrs. Sarah S. Pickering, of Cambridge, Mass.: 1200 species plants, collected by the late Dr. Chas. Pickering, in the years 1844 and 1845, in Malta, Egypt, Arabia, Zanzibar and India, also lot of seed-vessels, etc. Chas. F. Parker: *Lechea Novæ Cesariæ* Austin, Bergen Co., N. Y., (author's type); *Fragaria Gillmani*, Clinton, Detroit, Mich. (author's type); *Guizotia oleifera*, D. C., African species, from Ballast, Camden, N. J.; *Lycopus sessilifolius*, Gr., Batsto, N. J.; *Lycopus Europæus*, Ballast, Camden, N. J. Wm. M. Canby: *Phlox Stellaria*, Gr., Nashville, Tenn.; 5 species plants from California, new to the collection; 111 species of plants from Europe, Syria, S. Africa, etc., many of them new to the collection. Dr. Asa Gray: 161 species plants from California, Arizona, Oregon, Washington Terr., Turkistan, and Micronesia Islands, mostly new to the collection. Prof. C. J. Sargent: *Aster Herveyi*, Gr., Tiverton, R. I.; Photographs of Conifera, from Oregon. Geo. E. Davenport, Boston: *Cheilanthes viscida*, Davenp., California. Isaac C. Martindale: Third and fourth centuries' of Ellis' North American Fungi; *Corethrogyne filaginifolia*, Nutt, San Diego Co., Cal.; specimens of *Castanea vesca*, L., var. *Americana*, with abnormal fertile spikes, from Pitman's Grove, N. J.; Bark of *Pinus mitis*, Mx.; *Brickellia Vincentiana*, Greene, new species, New Mexico; *Corrigiola literalis*, L., Ballast, near Philadelphia. Dr. C. C. Parry, Davenport, Ia.: *Tithonia tubæformis*, Cass., cult. at Davenport, from Mexican seed; Mexican mats and rope made from fibre of *Agave heteracantha*; Fibre of *Agave Americana*. A. L. Siler, Utah: *Pentstemon Sileri*, Gr., nov. sp., Beaver Dam Mts., Utah. Mrs. M. J. Myers, Syracuse, N. Y.: *Epipactis Hel-*

*leborine* Rich., var. *viridans* Gr., near Syracuse, N. Y. Dr. Thos. Lancaster: *Polyporus*, growing on Hemlock Spruce, McKean Co., Pa. Wm. H. Dougherty: Skeleton of stem of *Opuntia imbricata*; Capsule of *Hanburia*; Stems of *Euphorbia antisiphilitica*, all from Chihuahua, Mexico. Aubrey H. Smith: *Myosotis versicolor*, Pers., Cobb's Creek, Darby, Pa. Thomas Bland, N. York: Wax, from the leaves of the Carnauba Palm (*Copernicia cerifera*); Whip from the bark of ———, Jamaica; Paper from the fibre of Plantain and Banana, Jamaica; *Myristica fragrans*, Houtt., Nutmeg with its Mace and outer husk, Jamaica; Seeds of the following plants from West Indies: *Lucuma mammosa*, Gris., *Feuillea cordifolia*, Ser., *Coix lachryma*, L., *Sapindus saponaria*, L., *Adenantha paronina*, L., *Abrus precatorius*, L., *Guilandina Bonduc*, L., *Anacardium occidentale*, L., *Guilandina Bonducella*, L.; Wood of the Down tree (*Ochroma Lagopus*). Thos. Meehan: *Pellaea atropurpurea*, Link., collected in Southern Utah, by A. L. Siler; *Sedum Meehan*, Gray, collected in Southern Utah, by A. D. Siler. Isaac Burk: Wood of *Heritiera*, Africa. Dr. A. P. Garber: 95 species of plants, collected by him at Yauco, Porto Rico, in 1880, named by Dr. Gray and Mr. Oliver of Kentucky. John H. Redfield: 217 species plants collected by Dr. C. C. Parry and Dr. E. Palmer, near San Luis Potosi, Mexico, named at Kew and Cambridge; 57 species Ferns, collected by A. Fendler, in the Island of Trinidad, W. I., in 1879–80, supplementary to a collection presented in 1878, named by Prof. D. C. Eaton; 7 species plants from Florida and Tropical America. J. H. Redfield, J. C. Martindale, Thos. Meehan, Wm. M. Canby, Dr. Chas. E. Schaffer, Dr. J. Bernard Brinton: Complete set of the Mosses and Hepaticæ of N. America, collected and named by the late Coe F. Austin, consisting of 518 species of Mosses and 124 species of Hepaticæ.

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#### REPORT OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SECTION.

The Entomological Section, throughout the past year has held its regular meetings, excepting during the months of July and August. Most of the meetings have been quite interesting, owing to the many original communications, both verbal and written, that have been presented. These lectures, as they may be called, were devoted to illustrating some of the variations of form, etc., of many entomological species and genera. At the same time opportunity has been afforded to those so desiring, to describe new species of the entomological fauna, and to present their observations to the public. That the claims of priority of description thus made, might not be lost by the several authors, such communications have been condensed and published in the Proceedings of the Section. The more full and complete papers are, as hereto-